

## **ESC 2014 Legislative Package Recommendations**

Community Net Metering is a proposed solution to some of the obstacles confronting those who would like to install and benefit from solar energy installations. The two biggest hindrances for private property owners are cost and shade. Community net metering addresses both issues, by allowing people to share a photovoltaic system through credits to investor's electricity accounts for energy produced by the system. In this setup, systems can be built in the best locations for solar generation and the costs can be shared to maximize efficiency. This system has already been set up on a limited scale in Virginia under HB 1695 but legislation is required to broaden the applicability to urban areas and multiple owners. Nine states and the District of Columbia already have forms of community net metering in place.

Single Use Consumer Plastic Bag Regulations Single use plastic bags, such as are commonly used at retail establishments, are a waste of resources. Over 380 billion bags are used each year in the US, representing millions of barrels of oil, and the average bag is used once and for less than 12 minutes. Single use plastic bags also cause several different problems in the environment and in recycling facilities. Not only do they end up in great quantities in our waterways, the inks often contain toxins. Although it is possible to recycle bags, less than 1% are currently recycled and our regional recycling facilities do not accept them because of their tendency to jam the sorting machinery. It is our understanding that Senator Adam Ebbin is planning to introduce legislation that will allow Virginians the opportunity to develop regulations on a regional or local basis. If that planned legislation retains a cost of 5 cents per bag, and the conditions for charging the fee remains the same as his 2013 proposal (SB 970), the ESC believes the legislation deserves support from the City of Fairfax. Further, in the interests of both businesses and consumers in the city, we suggest that, if the planned legislation is enacted into law, the city consider ordinances in concert with other local jurisdictions; i.e. this should be a regional approach to the problem.